

*filed
8/25/03*

S/N: 09/690,560
Reply to Office Action of July 1, 2003

Atty Dkt No. STK 00046 PUS

*OK to
enter
file
9/2/03*

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a conductive device, the method comprising:

forming a first and second conductive layers on first and second sides, respectively, of a substrate;

etching the first conductive layer to form a plurality of conductive traces;

etching the first conductive layer to form at least one mask feature;

etching the second conductive layer to define a ground plane; and

removing substrate material that is not covered by the at least one mask feature so as to form at least one mechanical alignment feature, wherein the at least one alignment feature includes at least one side edge;

wherein the conductive traces and the ground plane form part of the conductive device.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the etching steps performed on the first conductive layer are performed simultaneously.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the removing step includes removing the substrate material with a laser.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the removing step includes removing the substrate material so as to form at least one aperture.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the removing step includes removing the substrate material so as to form at least one tab.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the removing step includes removing the substrate material so as to form at least one slot.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a printed circuit board, the method comprising:

forming a first and second conductive layers on first and second opposite sides, respectively, of a substrate;

etching the first conductive layer to form multiple spaced apart conductive traces, each trace having a contact portion,

etching the first conductive layer to form multiple mask features that cooperate to define a template;

etching the second conductive layer to define a ground plane that includes multiple ground contact portions; and

ablating with a laser substrate material that is not covered by the template so as to form a plurality of mechanical alignment features, wherein the mechanical alignment features include multiple apertures and multiple side edges;

wherein the conductive traces and the ground plane form part of the printed circuit board.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the etching steps are performed simultaneously.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one mask feature includes at least one U-shaped mask feature.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one mechanical alignment feature includes at least one rectangular tab.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one mechanical alignment feature includes at least one rectangular slot.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the ablating step comprises positioning a beam of the laser normal to the surface of the substrate having the conductive traces and mask features formed thereon.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the multiple mask features include multiple U-shaped mask features.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the plurality of mechanical alignment features includes multiple tabs.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the plurality of mechanical alignment features includes multiple rectangular tabs.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the plurality of mechanical alignment features includes multiple rectangular slots.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 wherein the etching steps performed on the first conductive layer are performed simultaneously such that the method provides precise registration of the mechanical alignment features with the conductive traces.

22. (Previously Presented) A method of forming a conductive device, the method comprising:

forming a conductive layer on a substrate;

etching the conductive layer to form a plurality of conductive traces;
etching the conductive layer to form at least one mask feature; and
removing substrate material that is not covered by the at least one mask
feature so as to form at least one mechanical alignment feature, wherein the at least one
alignment feature includes at least one tab.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the at least one
tab includes at least one rectangular tab.